

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAJ-01

NIC-01 OMB-01 FEA-01 OES-05 EB-07 TRSE-00 COME-00

ACDA-10 /093 W

----- 125920

R 121430Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8295

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS HELSINKI 0313

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XZ, PINT, FI

SUBJECT: FINNISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PAPERS QUESTION

NORDIC COOPERATION

1. FEBRUARY 8 EDITORIAL IN HELSINKI DAILY DEMARI, MAIN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ORGAN, SAID THAT CONCEPT OF NORDIC COMMUNITY IS EVEN FUZZIER TODAY THAN BEFORE. WHERE THERE HAD BEEN SOME POLITICAL AFFINITY EXISTING IN SPITE OF DIFFERENT SECURITY POLICY ARRANGEMENTS, THERE ARE NOW MERELY CONTACTS AND DISCUSSIONS, WITH COOPERATION CONFINED TO SPECIALIZED AREAS WITHOUT POLITICAL DIRECTION, DENAMRK, EDITORIAL NOTES, HAS JOINED COMMON MARKET; NORWAY IS PREOCCUPIED WITH PROBLEMS OF ITS NEW FOUND OIL PROSPERITY; SWEDEN HAS JOINED WEST FOR ENERGY COOPERATION AND IS TRYING TO SELL VIGGENS TO NATO COUNTRIES. AFTER MBFR, SALT II AND CSCE, THE NORDIC COUNTRIES SHOULD EACH PONDER REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED BY DETENTE, SUAPER SAYS.

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SUGGESTION IS THEN MADE THAT FINLAND RE-EXAMINE SIT-

UATION IN NORDIC AREA NOT SOLELY WITHIN A NORDIC FRAMEWORK, BUT SHOULD STUDY ALL POSSIBILITIES FOR ESTABLISHING COOPERATION THAT INCLUDES USSR. PAPER SAYS THAT WHILE PRESERVING POSITIVE ACHIEVEMENTS OF NORDINCOOPERATION, NORTHERN EUROPE COULD GRADUALLY DEVELOP INTO MODELSKF EAST-WEST COOPERATION.

2. DEMARI EDITORIAL, WHICH MAY BE TRIAL BALLOON, BROUGHT PROMPT RESPONSES FROM MAJOR SWEDISH LANGUAGE PAPER IN FINLAND, HUFVUDSTADSBLADET, AS WELL AS SVENSKA DAGBLADET IN STOCKHOLM. FORMER, WHILE ENDORSING BOTH COOPERATION WITH USSR AND WITH NORDIC COUNTRIES, URGES THAT THESE BE KEPT SEPARATE. AFTER ALL, PAPER SAYS, FINNISH FOREIGN POLICY FOR YEARS HAS SOUGHT CREATE POSSIBILITIES; E.G., THROUGH CSCE, FOR COOPERATION ON BROADER BASIS THAN MERELY NORTHERN EUROPE; DOESN'T DEMARI BELIEVE IN SUCH POSSIBILITIES?

3. SWEDISH PAPERS ALWAYS FREER IN DISCUSSING FINNISH FOREIGN POLICY AND SVENSKA DAGBLADET INTERPRETED DEMARI EDITORIAL AS EFFORT BY SDP TO OUTBID CENTRE PARTY FOR SOVIET SUPPORT IN FORTHCOMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. SVENSKA DAGBLADET ADDED "THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIH WE GET SURPRISING PROPOSALS FROM FINLAND, THE PRESIDENT HAS ON A FEW OCCASIONS TAKEN THE INITIATIVE...MOST OF THE TIME THESE PROPOSALS HAVE MET WITH LITTLE INTEREST IN THE OTHER NORDIC COUNTRIES AND THIS IDEA IS LIKELY TO BE GIVEN A COOL RECEPTION".

4. SWEDISH-LANGUAGE FINNISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PAPER ARBETARBLADET HAS COME OUT IN SUPPORT AND DEFENSE OF DEMARI EDITORIAL. THE LEADING PAPER IN FINLAND, INDEPENDENT HELSINGEN SANOMAT, HAS ALSO STEPPED INTO THE FRAY IN A STRONG WAY, WRITING IN ITS FEB 11 EDITORIAL AMONG OTHER THINGS THAT "THE DEMARI EDITORIAL GIVES THE IMPRESSION OF HIDING A DESIRE TO ALTER FINLAND'S TRADITIONAL STATUS IN RELATION TO THE REST OF THE NORDIC COUNTRIES, ALTOUGH THE PAPER DARE NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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SAY IT OPENLY. WHATEVER THE ULTIMATE PURPOSE, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ORGAN ARGUES FOR ITS CASE ON FLIMSY GROUNDS. AND, IF AIRPLANE DEALS ENDANGER SWEDEN'S NEUTRALITY, IT MAY NOT BE VERY EASY TO PROVE THAT FINLAND'S FOREIGN POLICY IS NEUTRAL EITHER. THE DEMARI EDITORIAL CAN EASILY BE TAKEN TO MEAN THAT THE PAPER WANTS TO WITHDRAW FINLAND FROM THE COMPANY OF THE OTHER NORDIC COUNTRIES.

SUCH AN ENDEAVOUR WOULD INVOLVE A DRAMATIC CHANGE IN
OUR FOREIGN POLICY. ARE THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS REALLY
DESIRING THAT AND IF SO, WHY?

5. COMMENT: THAT IS REALLY THE QUESTION. AS YET
WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER DEMARI EDITORIAL WAS AN IDEA
SOLELY OF PAPER OF REFLECTS LEADERSHIP THINKING.
KREHBIEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, PETROLEUM, EXPLORATION, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HELSIN00313
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750051-0554
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750251/aaaabtkj.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2003 by McShalBA>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FINNISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PAPERS QUESTION NORDIC COOPERATION
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, XZ, FI, DEMARI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006